



THE POSTAL SCANDALS REPORT.

Fourth Assistant Postmaster General Bristow has set official Washington by the ears by his report on the postal scandals. He recommends that the position of superintendent of free delivery formerly held by Mr. Machen be abolished, and gives credit to Postmaster General Payne for setting the investigation on foot. He also suggests sweeping changes in the administration of the department. In the illustration Mr. Bristow is shown reading an extract from his report to Mr. Payne.

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Does not ultimately bring about the best results to a community.

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## A VISIT TO AUSTIN.

Bush Visits the State Capitol and Writes Interestingly About It.

Special Correspondence.

MIZPAH, Nov. 9.

Dear Readers:—Again I will endeavor to write you a letter. I was absent from home last week, and failed to send you a letter, but will now tell you of my visit to Austin. I spent almost one entire day in the State capitol, the first time I had ever had the opportunity of seeing it, and to me it was a rare treat. A person can live many years in the capital in one day so to speak. The building is one to which every Texan can point with pride. It is one we should indeed be proud of whether we are sons of Texas by birth or by adoption. The main beauty to my eye was that it was constructed entirely of Texas products, the entire building being made of stone dug out of old Texas' hills, and it is perceptible to a very high grade of polish as you can see by looking at the corner stone. The building, as one approaches it from Capitol avenue, presents a picture of rare beauty. A structure of power, a monument of liberty, and a statue of freedom. And, when once on the inside, the courteous treatment by the officers makes you feel like it is indeed ours. While a great many of you have visited it, many are not so fortunate, and a brief description might be of interest to you. I can draw but a poor pen picture of it; one must see it to appreciate it.

The main building is four stories high with basement beneath, and is capped by a dome which points skyward 326 feet from the first floor. The building has a hallway running east and west 600 feet, and another north and south about 400 feet. I don't remember the exact width. The building contains 258 different departments or rooms.

On entering you will see just to the left a large painting of the capture of Santa Anna, as he lay on his cot wounded and talking to Austin. One thing I noticed about this painting was that when a Mexican came into the capitol he made for the picture the first thing, and would stand for several minutes perfectly absorbed; then he would spend perhaps an hour looking over the building and then return to this same painting and spend several more minutes. It is a painting of rare skill.

To describe the private offices would consume too much space. But I was shown the senate chamber, which is on the second floor. It is handsomely furnished and the thirty-one members have a most commodious place to make laws. The walls are decked with the pictures of Texas heroes too numerous to mention; but one painting I will speak of, and that is the picture of the battle of San Jacinto. This painting is valued at \$55,000 and shows each army in its own uniform, and it is so plain you can almost imagine you can hear the roar of the old muskets.

The house of representatives is also finely furnished and is filled with the paintings like the senate. It cost about \$800 to carpet the floor.

I will pass on for fear of using too much space. I must mention the governor's reception room. It is furnished from Texas products. All the furniture was made at the Texas penitentiaries, and made of Texas wood. Three window curtains are the only imported articles and the three cost \$2250. A large mirror in one corner cost \$800.

It would take this letter and several more just to give you a small idea of the vastness of the capitol, and if you could spend days there it would be profitably spent, and you would say, as I did when I came away, great is Texas and wonderful is its resources.

I must not fail to mention my

visit to the blind asylum, and how proud the people should be to know the good that is being done there. Many lives have been cast there that at one time were gloomy and thought this world promised very little for them, that now, by the generosity of good old Texas, have some promise of a happy life. There you will not find a sad and gloomy student, but all seem to enjoy life to its fullest, and well they might for they have all the comfort and pleasure that tender hands and patient teachers can render. I will not try to describe the great groups of buildings that furnish homes for so many, but suffice it to say they are comfortable and well provided for, and each one seems to appreciate it.

It was interesting to see with what rapidity little tots totally blind can read, see them as well and better versed in geography than many, and to observe their knowledge of arithmetic and with what speed they solved examples on their "slates." And I must not fail to mention the band. It is composed of these students. Several are totally blind and the music they rendered was excellent and showed the marks of good training by skillful hands. It was grand to listen to and I feel under many obligations to the boys for the rare treat they gave me, and I regret that my time was so limited I could not stay longer.

I am very much indebted to Miss Katie Young for the hospitable reception she gave me and the interest she took in showing me over the institute. I must not close until I speak of the sick ward for the girls. This is under the charge of Miss Katie, and the neatness of all that presents itself in this department will cause any one to almost desire to be sick. Miss Katie is an excellent nurse and well she performs her task, and lucky are the inmates to have such an one. Long live the blind institute, and may it be a haven of rest and a helper to its inmates for years to come.

I will add nothing more.  
Your friend, BUSH.

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